

**Maine Farmer.**

HOMAN & BADGER, Publishers.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.
Our Home, Our Country and Our Brother Man.**The Grain Crops.**

The sowed grain do not look that position on Maine farms that they did of years ago; and this is one of the evidences that our system of farming has gradually changed. It is true there has been a revival of wheat growing, within the past six or eight years, over that of fifteen years ago; but while wheat culture has increased, oats, barley and rye have steadily decreased. The fact that our farms have been growing older—to speak—or in other words that there has been during the past ten or fifteen years, but little new land cleared, except in one or two counties, of course accounts for this. When land is cleared, rye is generally sown on a burn in autumn, and oats are sown to subside the rough nature of new land when first brought under the plow. As the wheat becomes more and more scarce, the farmers are taking up and taking up, but infrequently, our farmers believing it to be poor policy to plow up old fields for the purpose of sowing them to oats or barley. The increased use of top dressing as a means of keeping up the condition of lands bearing grass for hay, has also had much to do with the diminution of the breadth of sown crops. Buckwheat still holds its ascendancy on the farms of Aroostook county, where also large crops of oats and barley are yet sown; but in the older and by the larger portion of the State, buckwheat is sown only as a pasture, rye is not sown, and oats and barley are sown less and less each year.

This result, as just stated, is a natural one, and the direct result of permanent changes in our farming—we fall to see that it is in any way a change to be deplored. Indeed we are inclined to regard it but another interpretation of that system of adaptation which many farmers, whether knowingly or otherwise, find themselves sliding into; and as such, it is to be looked upon as a better and more hopeful sign for the future of our agriculture. When more cattle are fed on the farm and when the bulk of the crops raised are those that are consumed upon it, our agriculture is in no danger of running down. The growing of large breadths of oats or barley upon our old farms, we regard as on no account to be encouraged; but on the other hand the growing of good crops of hay, of wheat, of peas, of roots, should be every possible means receive increased attention; and these should all be consumed upon the farm and the returns in manure made to the farm. The larger number of cows that will be kept in the years to come will require additional food; and when our butchers in the larger towns and cities in Maine, are obliged to go to the Waterbury and Brighton live stock markets for their choice beef—it should be a subject of enquiry with our farmers if they cannot grow these nice heaves on Maine hay and turnips, thereby saving the vital part to our future success—the manure—at home, as well as the cost of transportation and the original price. There is no reason why Maine butchers should go to Massachusetts for beef cattle—only that Maine farmers do not grow them. But they used to do it years ago, and may do it now at a good profit. Let us this season curtail the area in oats and barley, and corn and potatoes—unless it is those localities where these crops may be grown to an advantage and at a profit—and let us grow more good grass, more turnips and mangolds, more beans and peas, and consume them on our farms to our cows and oxen, sheep and horses and hogs.

Government Explorations and Surveys.

Few publications are of greater value, whether in a scientific or an economic point of view, than the reports of the surveys and explorations of the more recent portions of our country under the auspices of the U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories. The U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories, under the charge of Prof. F. V. Hayden, one of the U. S. Geologists, and who occupies a foremost rank among the leading scientific men of the day. This survey, which is under the Department of the Interior, has published five volumes of reports of the greatest value, (the first of which has been once reprinted, a complimentary edition accorded to a government document) and has besides issued two volumes of its large quarto series of publications, four of the miscellaneous publications; and in order that it may communicate often with the public, and give fresh instalments of the information which it collects, has issued two numbers of a bulletin which it designs to publish as an occasional requires. These several publications, abundant in information on the geology, paleontology, ornithology, agriculture and mineral resources of the Territories, Nebraska, Idaho, Utah, Montana and New Mexico; and they have been of the greatest service in making public a correct knowledge of the natural advantages and resources of that section of our great country embraced in the above named Territories. The information which this Survey has obtained in its early publications, is very important to the farmer, and one reason why it has accomplished so much and made such contributions to our knowledge of the physical characteristics of this portion of our country—is because it is in charge of an ardent and enthusiastic scientist, who himself fully appreciates its importance, and urges forward the work of the survey and the labors of his assistants, by the force of his own example and spirit. Hence the results of the survey, which are published as fast as elaborated for that purpose, become available to the public at once—whereas, as is too often the case with the results of government explorations, where there is charge of the work—the public interest in the details of the work—the direct interest of the reports—is not published. The reports of this Survey are issued so rapidly as to keep up in the public mind, a lively interest in the same.

Recently an effort has been made to take this Survey from the Land Office of the Interior Department—where it properly belongs—and place it under the Engineer Bureau of the War Department; and in answer to a call for information, the President has transmitted

Mrs. Cotton's Bee Hive.

We received with the communication from Mrs. Cotton—which appears in another column—a private request to publish or suppress the entire article, not to publish a portion of it, or to suppress the entire article; and we should be thought wanting in gallantry, if we did not yield to this request, and take the communication in full, and publish the article as it is. We sincerely trust no change will be made in the management of this Survey, as we are confident it would be a great mistake, and that all the real scientific value of the work would be crushed out if placed under military control.

Maine 2-30 Horses, and their Sires.

Mr. J. W. Thompson of Canton, the hard working and modest compiler of the History of Maine Horses, forwarded and gave us permission (if we wished to do so), to publish a list of Maine 2-30 horses, which he had made up from material obtained in the course of making collections for his work. Showing this list to our friend Gen. Tilton, who chanced to drop into our sanctum as he was laying open on the table before us—he suggested that a list of sires would give it greater value, and made out a list so far as he was able. This list, with the column of sires, was published in the Maine Farmer of May 21, with a full face heading saying the list was compiled by Mr. Thompson, and in connection therewith we published an article explaining that Gen. Tilton had furnished the names of the sires. Now we have no doubt that in taking this liberty with Mr. Thompson's list we exceeded the authority vested in us, but positively ascertained it was not done with any "malice aforethought," but on the contrary, with the best of motives, and with no thought of doing injustice to any party. But the Lewiston Journal, not copying our explanatory article, nor the letter of Gen. Tilton, transfers the whole table to its columns and gives Gen. Tilton the entire credit for the same! Mr. Thompson has copied the table, crediting Mr. Thompson with the whole, when in fact he cannot take the column of sires. In a pleasantly written private note under date of 9th inst. says: "I purposely left out the names of sires, as I was hardly ready to be criticised, and I knew as the facts could be with the generally accepted theory I should be criticised sharply." He then goes on to make some corrections in the list of sires as given by Gen. Tilton, giving his authority, and concludes by saying that his history of Maine Horses, is now in the hands of the printer, and that he will set all matters right. It will comprise something over 300 pages, and will be issued by Hoyt & Fogg, Portland. Hereafter we shall have less faith in "joint authorship" than ever, and shall be careful how we mix up the productions of different writers, particularly on "horse matters." But this is the first error of the kind we have seen in the Lewiston Journal, and we trust our contemporary the Lewiston Journal will give Mr. Thompson proper credit for the list of Maine 2-30 horses, minus the column of sires.

Agri-cultural Experiment Stations.

In the forthcoming report of the Connecticut Board of Agriculture, Prof. Samuel W. Johnson of the Sheffield Scientific School, gives a most interesting account of the agricultural experiment stations in Germany and Continental Europe, and the work which they are carrying forward. The first one was put in operation at Mookern in Germany in 1851, by setting up a few farms in a farm house, where chemical and physiological investigations with direct reference to the work of the farm, could be carried on. This marked a new era in the history of agriculture, and the spirit of investigation throughout Continental Europe has been steady and rapid, that there are now sixty-three in operation, each one of which employs from one to five investigators, trained in the great modern schools of physiology and chemistry. These stations are now organized into an association which holds an annual conference or congress for discussion and exchange of views; and a monthly journal, containing the results of the experiments made, is published. Some of these stations are chiefly devoted to the study of cattle feeding; some to experiments on the conditions of vegetable growth, and the action of manures; some to tobacco and grape culture; some to grape culture and wine making; one is devoted to studies in silk production; one to milk industry; one to analysis of commercial manures; one to testing the purity and vitality of seeds—although most of the stations combine several of these objects in their operations. As a point of some interest, we give a schedule of the work of the station at Halle, for a single year; list, investigations on the feeding and nutrition of milk-producing animals; 24, in relation to the action of preventing poisons to disease; 24, experiments on the use of potash fertilizers upon the quality of superba, and the yield of barley; 44, experiments on the disinfection of the water of fountains; 5th, observations on the temperature of the soil at different depths; 6th, influence of the fodder on the growth of bones of cattle. At a point of some interest, we give a schedule of the work of the station at Halle, for a single year; list, investigations on the feeding and nutrition of milk-producing animals; 24, in relation to the action of preventing poisons to disease; 24, experiments on the use of potash fertilizers upon the quality of superba, and the yield of barley; 44, experiments on the disinfection of the water of fountains; 5th, observations on the temperature of the soil at different depths; 6th, influence of the fodder on the growth of bones of cattle.

A Famous Grape-Vine.

The celebrated Hampton Court grape vine, forms the subject of the illustration in this number of our paper. This vine, which is now planted in 1769, and has been known in Europe, and forms a leading attraction at Hampton Palace, which was built by Cardinal Wolsey in 1510, and afterwards rebuilt and enlarged by Henry VIII and also by William and Mary. In London's time it speaks of this garden as one of the most perfect in England and says the grape vine (in 1822) filled a grape arbor by fourteen feet. It is said to have been enlarged since, for James Vick—from whose Floral Guide we copy this illustration—who visited it last year, says it "completely filled a house 72 feet long, and about 30 in width." 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